

# Hazrat Khalid Bin Waleed: The Epitome of Valour

(May Allah be pleased with him)

**Khalid bin Waleed** bin Mugheera bin Abdullah bin Umar bin Makhzoom Abu Sulaiman Al Qurashi Al Makhzoomi, the sword of Allah which Allah had pulled out for the Unbelievers, was the son of one of the arch-enemies of Islam, Waleed bin Mugheera who was a very rich and noble man of Makkah. Khalid's mother, Lubaba was the sister of Maimoona bint Al Harith bin Hazan Al Hilali, one of the mothers of the believers. In the days of Ignorance, Khalid's family had the responsibilities of looking after military weapons and equipment and during battles, Khalid would be at the forefront of the cavalry (horsemen) unit.

Khalid was a brave youth who took part in all the battles against Islam till the Treaty of Hudaibia (Zul Qa'da, 6 AH). His role in the Battle of Uhud (Shawwal 3AH) is specially well-known where he single-handedly turned the almost certain victory of Muslims into a tragic loss by attacking the Muslims from back through a mountain pass which they had left unguarded believing that the enemies of Islam had been vanquished. A few years later, the gallant hero's heart got illumined by Allah's light and he, on his own decided to visit Madina and embrace Islam, the way to success and prosperity in both worlds. Then onwards, Hazrat Khalid (رضي الله عنه) lived at Madina in the noble company of the holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم), taking part in several battles throughout his life.

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His first important battle was the Battle of Mauta in Jumadal Ula 8 AH that took place between 3000 Muslims and 100 000 well-equipped Unfaithful (Unbeliever) soldiers under Shurahbeel bin Amr Ghassani. Showing great military acumen, agility and courage, he managed to impress upon the enemies who were left awe-struck at the strength and power of this small Muslim army. Hazrat Khalid (رضي الله عنه) fought so vigorously that nine swords got broken in his hands one after the other. A few hundred kilometers south, at Madina, the Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) stood on the pulpit miraculously describing the events of the battle-field on the same day. After reporting the deaths of the Muslim commanders, Hazrat Zaid bin Haritha, Ja'far Tayyaar and Abdullah bin Rawaha (ضي الله عنهم), the noble Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) said, "Then the sword from amongst the swords of Allah took hold of the Islamic flag and Allah granted him victory."

The holy Prophet (صلى الله عليه و سلم) deputed him on other important military campaigns as well. He was sent to the Muzar tribe after they had freed themselves from the chains of Unfaithfulness. Hazrat Khalid destroyed the powerless, lifeless bulky statue of Uzza, which they

had been worshipping till the other day. He was also a part of the glorious army under the holy Prophet (ﷺ) which achieved the historical conquest of Makka (Ramazan 8AH). He got injured in the battle of Hunain (Shawwal 8 AH). Later, the glorious Prophet (ﷺ) sent him to punish Ukaidir bin Abdul Malik, the chieftain of Daumatul Jandal. Hazrat Khalid arrested him and sent him to the Prophet (ﷺ) at Madina.

When Hazrat Abu Bakr (رضي الله عنه) took the charge of the first Muslim Caliph, there was an overwhelming wave of apostasy among the neo-Muslims of Arabia which had put the entire being of Islam in danger of extinction. Under his intelligent and foresighted guidance, Hazrat Khalid (رضي الله عنه) quelled some of the biggest mutinees. First he was sent to deal with Tulaiha bin Khuwailid Asadi who had made the false claim of being a prophet. Hazrat Khalid attacked the combined armies of Banu Asad, Ghatfan, Hawazin and Banu Aamir at Bazzakha. After a long battle, Tulaiha was forced to flee to Shaam and his army was demolished. Another liar, **Sajjaah** bint Harth bin Suwaid of Taghlib tribe had also claimed to be a prophetess and gathered an army of 4000 consisting of Banu Taghlib, Banu Amr and Banu Shaibaan. While she kept the five-time salaah obligatory, she allowed adultery, wine-drinking and usury. When Hazrat Khalid approached her army, Sajjaah's supporters fled. She spent the rest of her life at Jazeera among Banu Taghlib in anonymity.

Then Hazrat Khalid headed towards Musailama the liar who was based at Yamama and had a large army of 40 000. Hazrat Khalid attacked him with his 13 000 brave soldiers. With firm belief in truthfulness of the Prophetic declaration that an army of 12000 can never lose a battle because of low numbers.<sup>1</sup> It was a very difficult battle in which 17 000 enemies and 1000 Muslims including 70 memorizers of the Holy Book lost their lives. Nevertheless, Khalid was able to defeat and kill the person who had lied against Allah and the holy prophet. By Muharram 12 AH, Arabia had been purged of all the apostates.

So Hazrat Abu Bakr now deputed Khalid to fight the Persian forces in Iraq. In one of his first major battles in Iraq, Hazrat Khalid was faced with the legendary commander Hurmuz, the governor of Husair in Iraq. He was so brave that he even used to take his naval forces to India and attack it. Hazrat Khalid first stepped forward in the battle ground alone and challenged the commander to come for a one-to-one fight. Hurmuz came forward. The two first bravely fought with swords but Hazrat Khalid was able to snatch the sword from him. Then they began to wrestle and Hazrat Khalid threw him down on the ground and killed him. Then the general battle between the two armies began in which the Muslims defeated the Persians. Hazrat Khalid then went on conquering Dalja, Lais, Anbaar, Ainut Tamar, Daumatul Jandal, Husaid, Muzaikh and Faraaz in Iraq. Hara was won without any significant fight as by now, the Persians had got acquainted with the unmatched might of Hazrat Khalid. At Razzafa, the enemies fled at the news of approach of Hazrat Khalid bin Waleed (رضي الله عنه).

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<sup>1</sup> حدثنا زهير بن حرب أبو خيثمة ثنا وهب بن جرير ثنا أبي قال سمعت يونس عن الزهري عن عبيد الله بن عبد الله عن ابن عباس عن النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال " خير الصحابة أربعة وخير السرايا أربعمائة وخير الجيوش أربعة آلاف ولن يغلب اثنا عشر ألفاً من قلة " قال أبو داود والصحيح أنه مرسل. (Abu Dawood: 2611, Riyaaz 959)

In nearly, all of these battles Hazrat Khalid had to face a Persian army that would 8-10 times larger in numerical strength and led by a celebrated Persian commander. Yet the indomitable sword of Allah remained victorious everywhere against all odds. At some places, Hazrat Khalid had to face the combined might of Arab tribes living in Iraq, the Romans and the Persians. And everywhere he emerged the winner. Hazrat Khalid was very kind and caring for the subjects of the conquered states taking every care to establish an efficient administration in the conquered regions. But it would be a different story in the battlefield. Even before his arrival, the enemies would start losing hope and courage and when he did reach the battle-field, he would challenge the opponent commander for a duel. Even the bravest and mightiest souls would be seen wriggling in blood and soil after a few minutes.

Between Muharram 12 AH and Safar 13 AH (1 year 2months), Hazrat Khalid had succeeded in conquering the whole of Iraq after vanquishing the mighty Persians. Then, Hazrat Abu Bakr commanded him to go to **Shaam** (the Roman state consisting of modern Syria, Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan) and dazzle the other super power, the Romans with his invincible sword. His first halt was at Yarmook where he led the combined armies of Hazrat Ikrima bin Abu Jahl, Amr bin Aas, Yazeed bin Abu Sufyaan, **Abu Ubaida** bin Jarraah and Shurahbeel bin Hasana (رضي الله عنهم) against the 8-times larger army of the Romans. The Romans were 240 000 while all the combined Muslim army was only 30 000. The dreadful battle went on throughout the day with demonstrations of unprecedented bravery from both sides. The lions of Islam, Hazrat Khalid, Abu Ubaida, Shurahbeel, Yazeed bin Abu Sufyan and Abu Darda (رضي الله عنهم) made such daring and resolute attacks that left the Romans amazed. Finally, with Allah's help, the Muslims were able to defeat the enemies of the Creator and Sustainer of the world. While 3000 Muslim heroes attained martyrdom, 130 000 Romans left for their sorrowful journey of the next world.

The commander-in-chief of Islamic state won wherever he went and conquered whatever city and town he visited. However, all of this was only because of Allah's special favour to those who obey him and his last Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) as Muslims, and not because of any super-human attribute of the brilliant commander-in-chief of Islam. Lest anybody should think otherwise, Hazrat Umar Farooq, on the very first day of his khilafat (22 Jumadath Thania 13 AH), demoted him to the rank of a commander working under Hazrat Abu Ubaida, who was the new commander-in-chief. And Hazrat Khalid as a true servant of Allah kept on fighting with same vigour and energy as before! With the firm faith in Allah that he had – for whom he lived and died – it was not surprising, but comparing with the general human psyche of our decadent age, it certainly appears to be something superhuman.

Working under Hazrat Abu Ubaida, he continued to play the pivotal role in future military campaigns in Shaam. Damascus, Qansareen, Mar'ash and finally the large province of Jazeera fell one by one to the Islami army with great contribution from Hazrat Khalid. But the gallant pioneer of Islam was much more than a mere legendary warrior. His steadfast faith in Allah also needs special of mention. This extraordinary faith and belief in the Almighty made strange miracles happen to him and because of him.

Abus Safr narrates that when Khalid (رضي الله عنه) reached Harra town, some unfaithfuls brought poison for Khalid to drink. Khalid instead of punishing them, recited بسم الله الرحمن الرحيم and drank it. By Allah's Mercy, the poison did him no harm (Abu Ya'la). Khaisama reports that a person with a wineskin (leather-sack containing wine) passed by Hazrat Khalid. Khalid (رضي الله عنه) prayed to Allah to turn it into honey. And lo! it did actually turn into honey. (Al Isaba 2:254)

When the hour of death approached him, he lamented, "I have taken part in nearly one hundred battles. And not a single span of my body remains which has not been hurt by a sword, spear or arrow, yet I die on my bed (at home, unable to attain the exalted status of a martyr)<sup>2</sup>." The Allah-loving believer donated all his armours and weapons in Allah's way, to be used by the selfless Mujahideen.

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<sup>2</sup> لقد شهدت مائة زحف أو زهاءها، وما في بدني موضع شبر إلا وفيه ضربة أو طعنة أو رمية. وها أنا أموت على فراشي! (أسد الغابة 1:313)